



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines, a look at recycling news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Had a successful collection event? Have a recycling problem? Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoe@deq.virginia.gov.

Is Single Stream Recycling the Wave of the Future?

For about five years, the national recycling rate has hovered around 30 percent. In a dual stream approach, which has been the traditional recycling method, residents separate their recyclables for curb side pick up or drop off. With the advent of mechanical sorting machinery which can sift commingled recycled materials, larger recycling containers can be used to encourage more recycling.

Unfortunately, single-stream recycling has its disadvantages. Plastic and glass can contaminate the paper. With single-stream recycling, glass tends to break when it is dumped into trucks and small shards cannot be recycled.

Tidewater Fibre Corp set up the East Coast's first single stream recycling program in Virginia Beach in 1997. Since then, the area's recycling tonnage has tripled. According to Michael Benedetto, Tidewater's President; "When you give people a 95-gallon container, it just makes it easier for them to recycle."

Visit TFC at: <http://www.tfccorp.com/contact.htm>

First School in the Commonwealth Earns LEED Certification

Hermitage Elementary School in Virginia Beach is the first school and the second structure within the Commonwealth to earn a voluntary certification called Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. (The first was Old Dominion University's Engineering and Computational Sciences Building)

In order to qualify for this certification, the U.S. Green Building Council created a checklist in which each facility applying for LEED certification must meet at least 27 Of the 69 conditions for sustainable construction. Hermitage Elementary School met 27 of the requirements. The school is unique with its waterless urinals, natural landscaping, recycled materials and energy-saving fixtures. Instead of using particleboard, cabinets are made out of straw after the wheat has been harvested. Wood that is used comes from forests where trees have been replanted to replace the trees that were cut. Informative signs are placed around the school to inform people about the green features in and around the school. The school also earned points towards their certification for recycling its old bricks and steel.

Hermitage Elementary School will also start a recycling program in January. For more information about Hermitage Elementary School's green status, contact Ruby Arredondo. The Clean Community Program Manager for Virginia Beach at 757-385-4104 or rarredon@vb.gov

Did You Know?

- ✓ David Paylor was appointed as the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality on January 16 with the retirement of Bob Burnley.
- ✓ Recycling Rate Reports are due by April 30. You can download the directions and the form by going to: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/documents/2005RRRFormFinal.pdf>
- ✓ The Battery Council International has launched a web site which discusses lead acid battery recycling, and recycling statistics of the nation's most recycled consumer products. For more information go to: <http://www.leadacidbatteryinfo.org>
- ✓ Fairfax County is sponsoring an "It's Cool to Recycle" Contest which runs from January 23 – March 1. For more information go to: <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/dpwes/recycling/school.htm> or call Carol Swift at 703-324-5288.

Aluminum Cans in Northern Virginia Help Burn Victims

Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC) is a program that serves Northern Virginia children and their families who are burn survivors. ACBC sponsors burn camps for children and hosts holiday parties. They also provide funding assistance to pediatric burn patients and their families. ACBC's primary source of funding comes from aluminum can collections and private donations. ACBC has collection cages for cans in Arlington County, Alexandria City, Fairfax County Fairfax City, and Prince William County. For more information about ACBC go to: www.acbcprogram.org

Program to Keep Universal Waste Out of the Landfills in Southwest Virginia

The Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority has set up a program to recycle electronics, batteries, florescent lights and other types of household hazardous waste. It is the first program of its type in Southwest Virginia. In the past, the New River Resource Authority held one day events to collect household hazardous waste and electronics. Now, citizens can drop off these items during regular business hours.

Tim Myers, the Authority's recycling coordinator said that the program was developed because citizens requested it. The Authority has a contract with Southwest Recycling Technologies of Johnson City, TN to come to collect the materials and recycle them.

For more information, call the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority at 540-381-2820.

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